

Message Text

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SUBJECT: CONSULTATIONS WITH NATO ALLIES

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1. NORWAY SHARES MANY OF THE SAME FEELINGS TOWARD NATO HELD BY OTHER SMALLER ALLIES. SHE JOINED THE ALLIANCE AFTER THE WAR AND A LONG HISTORY OF ISOLATION AND NEUTRALISM, TO PROVIDE FOR THE NATION'S SECURITY THROUGH COLLECTIVE DEFENSE AND ALSO TO GAIN AN OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK TO WESTERN EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA ON FOREIGN POLICY TOPICS THAT HER SIZE AND RELATIVE UNIMPORTANCE WOULD HAVE NORMALLY DENIED HER. THE NPG IS AN EXCELLENT CASE IN POINT AS ARE THE REGULAR US SALT CONSULTATIONS IN NATO.

2. WHILE NORWAY JOINED NATO FOR MANY OF THE SAME REASONS THAT BELGIUM, LUXEMBOURG AND THE NETHERLANDS DID, ITS MEMBERSHIP IN NATO BECAME EVEN MORE VALUED AND IMPORTANT WHEN THE NORWEGIAN ELECTORATE REJECTED MEMBERSHIP IN THE EEC. THUS THE GON WAS DENIED AN IMPORTANT PLATFORM TO VOICE ITS OPINIONS AND INFLUENCE EVENTS THAT ALL ITS OTHER WESTERN EUROPEAN
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ALLIES HAVE.

3. THE BILATERAL DEFENSE AND ECONOMIC RELATIONS BETWEEN NORWAY AND THE US HAVE MULTIPLIED DURING THE LAST TEN YEARS AS AMERICA, AS THE MAJOR REINFORCING ALLY, MOVED TO DEVELOP DEPLOYMENT SCENARIOS, RECEPTION FACILITIES, LINES OF COMMUNICATIONS AGREEMENT, COLOCATED OPERATING BASES, WINTER TRAINING EXPERIENCE

FOR ITS TROOPS, ETC. ETC. MOMENTUM IN THESE AREAS HAS ACCELERATED SIGNIFICATLY DURING THE LAST TWO YEARS. NORWAY'S BURGEONING OIL INDUSTRY AND ASSOCIATED WEALTH HAS SIMILARLY DEEPENED OUR INTEREST IN THE FATE OF THE COUNTRY. NORWAY ITSELF HAS BEGUN MODERNIZING ITS WEAPONS SYSTEMS AND WE HAVE SIGNED A NUMBER OF MOU'S NOT THE LEAST OF WHICH WAS THE F-16 COPRODUCTION ARRANGEMENT.

4. NORWAY COMES TO ITS GROWING RELATIONS WITH NATO AND THE UNITED STATES WITH A RESIDUAL FEELING OF INFERIORITY AND SMALL-NESS. IT HAS PROVED PRICKLY IN THE PAST OVER DIRECTORATE GROUPINGS (NPG) AND HAS SHOWN ITS CONTINUING SENSITIVITY TO CONSULTATIONS (AND SURPRISING LACK OF UNDERSTANDING ON THEIR SIDE) ON IMPORTANT ALLIANCE MATTERS SUCH AS THE RECENT FRG TROOP PARTICIPATION DECISION AND THE BREZHNEV LETTER RESPONSES.

5. NORWAY STILL NEEDS TO BE CAREFULLY HANDLED AND ITS ALLIANCE CONSULTATIONS PRACTICES NURTURED.

6. IN SUM, WE FEEL THAT THERE ARE US AND ALLIANCE INTERESTS THAT WOULD BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY ANY MOVEMENT TOWARDS US AD HOC CONSULTATIONS OUTSIDE THE ALLIANCE STRUCTURE. TO THE CONTRARY, WE FEEL THAT IT WOULD BE WISE, FROM THE OSLO PERSPECTIVE, TO MAKE MORE USE OF THE NATO MECHANISMS. LERNER

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